



CITY OF *Savannah* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Monthly Newsletter, September 2017

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SPECIAL EDITION: HURRICANE RELIEF



Last week Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys before heading up the state and into Georgia early on September 11, 2017. Damage and flooding were observed within Chatham County and continuous updates were provided by the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) and other local and federal partners. Since the storm has passed, residents and business owners may have questions regarding relief and recovery. Here are some helpful links with up to date information:

- [City of Savannah Hurricane Information](#)
- [Debris Removal Guidelines](#)
- [Chatham Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [United Way Donations and Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Economic Development - Hurricane Irma Business Survey](#)

Please call "311" to report downed trees and power lines, or use the online form at www.savannahga.gov/311. Please call "911" for emergencies that require an immediate response from first responders.

A Presidential [declaration](#) of a major disaster for the State of Georgia was issued on September 15, 2017. Businesses located in Camden, Chatham, and Gynn Counties are now eligible for [disaster loan assistance](#) provided by the [Small Business Administration](#) (SBA). Physical Disaster Loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available for qualifying businesses to help with hurricane recovery efforts. Affected businesses can apply for assistance online or in person at the [Savannah Entrepreneurial Center](#).

Business Resources for Hurricane Preparedness and Relief



[SBA Business Recovery Center at the Savannah Entrepreneurial Center](#)

The Savannah Entrepreneurial Center, located at 801 E. Gwinnett Street, will host the SBA Business Recovery Center. SBA representatives will be available to assist businesses affected by Hurricane Irma. Businesses can learn about and apply for disaster recovery loans online or in person. For more information, please call the SEC at (912) 652-3582.



[WorkSource Coastal](#)

In partnership with the American Job Center Network, WorkSource Coastal is a local organization committed to guide and assist Coastal Georgia to develop, promote, support, and sustain a competitive workforce. In the wake of the hurricane, employers and employees can turn to WorkSource Coastal for assistance with staffing and connecting guests to job centers and training programs.



[Ready Your Business: Business Continuity Planning Guidebook](#)

[Ready Georgia](#) is a statewide campaign supported by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency aimed at motivating Georgians to take action to prepare for a disaster. The Business Continuity Planning Guidebook is intended to assist small or large organizations to outline a plan to continue business in the event of a natural disaster.

Chatham Emergency Management Agency

Need Volunteer Assistance?

Need Help Cleaning Up After Irma?

If you would like to be placed on a list for volunteer assistance, please call the Crisis Cleanup Hotline
1-800-451-1954



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Business Courses and Workshops

Savannah Entrepreneurial Center

ATDC Coffee Hour

Friday, September 22, 8:30am-9:30am
Bull Street Labs, 2222 Bull Street

Hire Savannah Follow-Up Discussions

Thursday, September 28, 11:30am
Thursday, October 5, 5:30pm

Tech SAV - Tech Tuesday

Tuesday, October 2, 5:30pm
The Chromatic Dragon, 514 MLK, Jr. Blvd.

SCORE Business Launchpad 2017

Saturday, October 7, 9:00am-3:30pm
SCORE, 111 E. Liberty Street

Savannah Downtown Business Association

October Luncheon

Wednesday, October 11, 11:00am-1:00pm
Trustees' Garden, 10 East Broad Street

Small Business Assistance Corporation: Storm Recovery Loan Program

The [SBAC Storm Recovery Loan Program](#) is intended to provide financial assistance to speed resumption of normal commercial activities. The program is for small businesses in the City of Savannah, its surrounding counties: Chatham, Bryan, Bulloch, Effingham, Liberty, and Long; and the South Carolina's Low Country counties of Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston, and Dorchester. All loans subject to availability of funds and prudent business lending practices. For more information, please contact the SBAC at (912) 232-4700 or visit their office at 111 East Liberty Street in Savannah.

- **Business need:** Property and equipment damage, loss of inventory, loss of revenue due to closings, power outages, and cessation of tourism
- **Eligible Businesses:** Borrowers must be an existing business with a 2016 business tax return and a current business license
- **Eligible Uses:** Business interruption, bridge to insurance, working capital, equipment damage, inventory, payroll, etc.
- **Amount:** Up to \$30,000
- **Term:** Up to 36 months, amortized principal and interest
- **Rate:** 7%
- **Fees:** \$100 closing fee plus applicable filing fees
- **Collateral:** Personal guaranty, lien on all business assets or real estate (if repair to building)

[*LOAN APPLICATION*](#)
[*CLICK HERE*](#)



City of Savannah

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"To facilitate economic development activities that foster a strong local economy, spur business and job growth, and provide for a better quality of life in Savannah."